AA-869

Odenton Survey District   Mid-19th through
Odenton   Early 20th centuries

Public and Private

     The Odenton Survey District is located within the older community of Odenton
in northwest Anne Arundel County. It consists of 87 contributing resources,
including dwellings, churches, a school, Masonic halls, railroad facilities and
other structures, most of which were built in the late 19th and early 20th
centuries.

     The historical development of Odenton is closely linked to the development
of rail transportation connecting Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Annapolis. The
location of Fort George G. Meade in 1917, just west of Odenton, also served as an
impetus for Odenton's further growth.

Survey No. AA-869

Magi No.

DOE x yes __no

AA-727 Frank Watts House
       (within Odenton Survey
       District)

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common   Odenton Survey District

2. Location

street & number primarily Odenton Rd. (Rt. 677) and others   ___ **not for publication**

city, town Odenton   ___ **vicinity of**   **congressional district** 4th

state Maryland   **county** Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
_X_ district	___ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	_X_ commercial	___ park
___ structure	_x_ both	___ work in progress	_x_ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	_X_ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	_X_ transportation
	_x_ not applicable	_X_ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Multiple Owners

street & number   telephone no.:

city, town   state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse   liber

street & number Church Circle   folio

city, town Annapolis   **state** MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Anne Arundel Co. Historic Sites Survey (AA-727,743,751, and 752)

date 1978 and 1980   _X_ **federal** _X_ **state** _X_ **county** ___ **local**

repository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis   **state** MD

Condition

		Check one	**Check one**
_x_ excellent	___ deteriorated	_X_ unaltered	_X_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
_x_ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Description

    The Odenton Survey District is located within the older community of Odenton in northwest Anne Arundel County. It consists of 87 contributing resources, including dwellings, churches, a school, Masonic halls, railroad facilities and other structures, most of which were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

    Old Odenton is clustered around the intersections of the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad with the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the Baltimore and Washington Electric Railroad. The Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad and the Baltimore and Washington Electric line became the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad in 1908. The Baltimore and Potomac Railroad became part of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and is currently used by Amtrak. The Baltimore and Washington Electric Railroad tracks, which form the east boundary of the survey district, were removed after the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis ceased operation in 1950; the roadbed is still visible in Odenton. The Annapolis and Elkridge tracks were also removed east of the intersection of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad (Amtrak). The old Baltimore and Potomac line (Amtrak) is the only remaining active line in Odenton, still giving definition to it as a railroad town.

    Odenton Road (now Route 677) was the main east-west road through town. It has been bypassed to the north by the new Route 175, along which much new development has occurred. A present-day traveler on Route 175 would be unaware that Old Odenton still exists to the south and north of it.

    The dwellings located within the survey district are predominately frame and reflect the influence of the late 19th century Queen Anne architectural style and the early 20th century Four-Square Plan, Classical Revival and Bungalow styles. The Queen Anne influence is best seen at the eclectic Frank Watts House at 1401 Odenton Road. Begun in 1881 as a two-story central passage plan house with a cross-gable roof, it was expanded several times, resulting in an interesting and picturesque composition.

    Another two-story central passage plan dwelling with a cross-gable roof and later additions is the George M. Murray House at 1390 Odenton Road. It is a much simpler house in composition than the Watts House.[1] Built in 1873, the Murray House is the oldest standing structure in Odenton.

    The early 20th century Four-Square Plan house is characterized by a blocky, square plan and large dormers set into a steeply pitched roof. This is illustrated by 1366, 1381 and 1385 Odenton Road, to name a few.

    An early 20th century Classical Revival influenced house is depicted at 1391 Odenton Road. The gable end forms the principal facade and has a wrap-around porch supported by Doric columns. The bank of windows in the attic story of the gable end is a stylized version of the classical 3-part Palladian window.

Period

___ prehistoric
___ 1400–1499
___ 1500–1599
___ 1600–1699
___ 1700–1799
_X_ 1800–1899
_X_ 1900–

Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

___ archeology-prehistoric
___ archeology-historic
___ agriculture
_X_ architecture
___ art
_x_ commerce
___ communications

___ community planning
___ conservation
___ economics
___ education
___ engineering
___ exploration/settlement
___ industry
___ invention

___ landscape architecture
___ law
___ literature
___ military
___ music
___ philosophy
___ politics/government

___ religion
___ science
___ sculpture
___ social/
    humanitarian
___ theater
_X_ transportation
___ other (specify)

Specific dates   **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: _A_ _B_ _C_ _D_
           and/or

           Applicable Exception: _A_ _B_ _C_ _D_ _E_ _F_ _G_

           Level of Significance: _national_ _state_ _local_

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The historical development of Odenton is closely linked to the development of rail transportation connecting Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Annapolis. The location of Fort George G. Meade in 1917, just west of Odenton, also served as an impetus for Odenton's further growth.

In 1837, the second railroad in Maryland, the Annapolis and Elkridge, was chartered and by 1840 was in operation, connecting Annapolis with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's Washington branch. The junction with the Baltimore and Ohio in northwest Anne Arundel County became known as Annapolis Junction. The line ran southeast to Annapolis, giving rise to a few small towns along the way. Millersville was one of the first to be established, followed by Crownsville by 1860. A cluster of six structures in the vicinity of Odenton appears on Simon Martenet's 1860 map of Anne Arundel County.

In 1860, Oden Bowie, from whom Odenton draws its name, became the President of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, a newly chartered railroad which ran between Baltimore and Washington. This line, later absorbed by Pennsylvania Railroad, is the present line used by Amtrak.

In 1868, a house and station were built in Odenton on the east side of the Baltimore and Potomac tracks; Odenton was officially established. (The house and station are no longer standing.) Service began in 1872 during the final year of Oden Bowie's term as Governor of Maryland.

The Maryland Directory of 1878, as referenced in Catherine O'Malley's Odenton--The Town a Railroad Built, described Odenton as having a population of 100. Its climate was mild and healthy,

> ... business and land medium; not much cleared; the timbered land is a heavy growth and that yet standing is composed of chestnut, pine and oak; land is worth from $5 to $30 per acre and produces 10 bu. of wheat, 20 bu. of corn. Corn and tobacco crop good. The inducements to emigrants are cheap lands, one church and one public school.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hopkins, G. M. Atlas of Anne Arundel County Maryland, 1878.

Martenet, Simon. Martenet's Map of Anne Arundel County Maryland, 1860.

O'Malley, Catherine L. Odenton - The Town a Railroad Built. Annapolis and St. Michaels,
   Maryland; Jackson Printing, Inc., 1978

White, Roger B. "The W. B. & A.: A Short Outline of the Short Line."

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name ___Odenton_____   Quadrangle scale _____7.5_____

UTM References   do NOT complete UTM references

A ⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋   B ⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋
  Zone Easting   Northing   Zone Easting   Northing

C ⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋   D ⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋

E ⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋   F ⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋

G ⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋   H ⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋ ⌊⌊⌊⌊⌊⌋

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title   Donna M. Ware

organization Anne Arundel Co. Historic Sites Survey   date   1985

street & number   Office of Planning & Zoning   telephone   301-224-1270

city or town   Annapolis,   state   MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
              Shaw House
              21 State Circle
              Annapolis, Maryland 21401
              (301) 269-2438

PS-2746

#7. Continuation sheet, page 2

A beautiful example of the Bungalow style is seen next door at 1395 Odenton Road. It is constructed of rusticated concrete block and has a wrap-around porch which incorporates a turret at the northwest corner.

There are two churches of survey quality within the Odenton Survey District. The Bethel M. E. Church at Waco and Becknel Avenues is a simple rectangular building constructed of rusticated concrete block. It was built in 1917 when the congregation was forced to move from a small frame church that was within the boundaries of the developing Fort Meade complex. The same story holds for the Epiphany Episcopal Church which was built in 1918 at Odenton Road and Morgan Road.

The old Odenton Elementary School, originally known as the Academy, at 1361 Odenton Road, was built in 1892. It is a rectangular two-story structure with the gable end forming the principal facade. It has been altered for use as apartments.

The Odenton Volunteer Fire Company, formed in 1931, used Silver's Warehouse, at the northwest corner of Odenton Road and Morgan Road, as their first fire station. The warehouse, located just south of the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad (later the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad), was used as storage for Silver's Store which once stood adjacent to it.

The Odenton Masonic Temple is one of the largest and most distinctive buildings in the Survey District. Built in 1912, it is a frame, rectangular structure measuring 5 bays by 3 bays. It is covered by a gable roof, distinguished by wide, flared eaves. The offset entrance on the facade is embellished by an elaborate Georgian Revival architrave.

The present Kiwanis Community Center at 1363 Watts Avenue was built in 1925 as the Junior Masonic Order Hall. It is constructed of rusticated concrete block and has a pyramidal roof. A cornerstone, placed in the northwest corner of the building, records the dates of "1895" and "1925." The year 1895 is presumably the year in which the Junior Masons order was organized.

The Citizens State Bank, built in 1917, is a Neo-Classical influenced building, located at 1402 Odenton Road. It faces east toward the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks and is a small square structure constructed of grey rusticated concrete block with contrasting lighter grey rusticated concrete block quoins and a belt-course. The principal entrance on the east elevation is marked by sidelights, a transom and a pediment over the doorway.

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1. Interview with Catherine O'Malley, May 1, 1984.

#8. Continuation sheet, page 2

(Neither the school nor the church mentioned above is still standing.) The Postmaster was Jacob Watts. He and George M. Murray were the two merchants in town. The Agent for the Railroad (Baltimore and Potomac) and Express was George E. Creider. The community physician was O. Tydings, and the County Commissioner was Allen Warfield.

The oldest standing structure in Odenton is the George M. Murray House at 1390 Odenton Road (Route 677). According to Catherine L. O'Malley, town historian, the Murray House was built in 1873. The rear wing accommodated George Murray's store. To the east, George Murray constructed a tomato canning house in the late 19th century. The enterprising Murray tore it down in 1928 to make way for his new business, a coal yard, which operated from 1928 to 1940.

The Watts House at 1401 Odenton Road was begun in 1881 and has had several additions, resulting in an eclectic blend of architecture. It is not known whether this house was used as a hotel or boarding house, but its size and location at the railroad crossroads strongly support this theory.

Odenton's development was again affected by the construction of another railroad, the Baltimore and Washington Electric Railroad. Begun in 1902, the line paralleled the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad (Pennsylvania Railroad), intersecting the Annapolis and Elkridge line east of the Baltimore and Potomac intersection in Odenton. The Baltimore and Washington combined with the Annapolis and Elkridge (then known as the Annapolis, Washington and Baltimore Railroad) under the name of the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad. By 1908, the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis was providing electric rail service between all three cities.

The construction of Fort Meade in 1917 caused the displacement of many farmers, merchants, public and private enterprises. The War Department acquired 19,000 acres of land west of Odenton, involving over 600 land transactions. Many people relocated in Odenton. Two church congregations moved to Odenton and erected church buildings in 1917 and 1918. They are still standing: Bethel M. E. Church (present YWCA) at 433 Waco Street (2nd Avenue) and the Epiphany Episcopal Church at 1419 Odenton Road. The Citizens State Bank, now abandoned, at 1402 Odenton Road, was constructed in 1917 with the hopes of tapping a new market of investors in Odenton and at the nearby Fort Meade.

AA-869 ODENTON SURVEY DISTRICT

Key
    Contributing Resources:
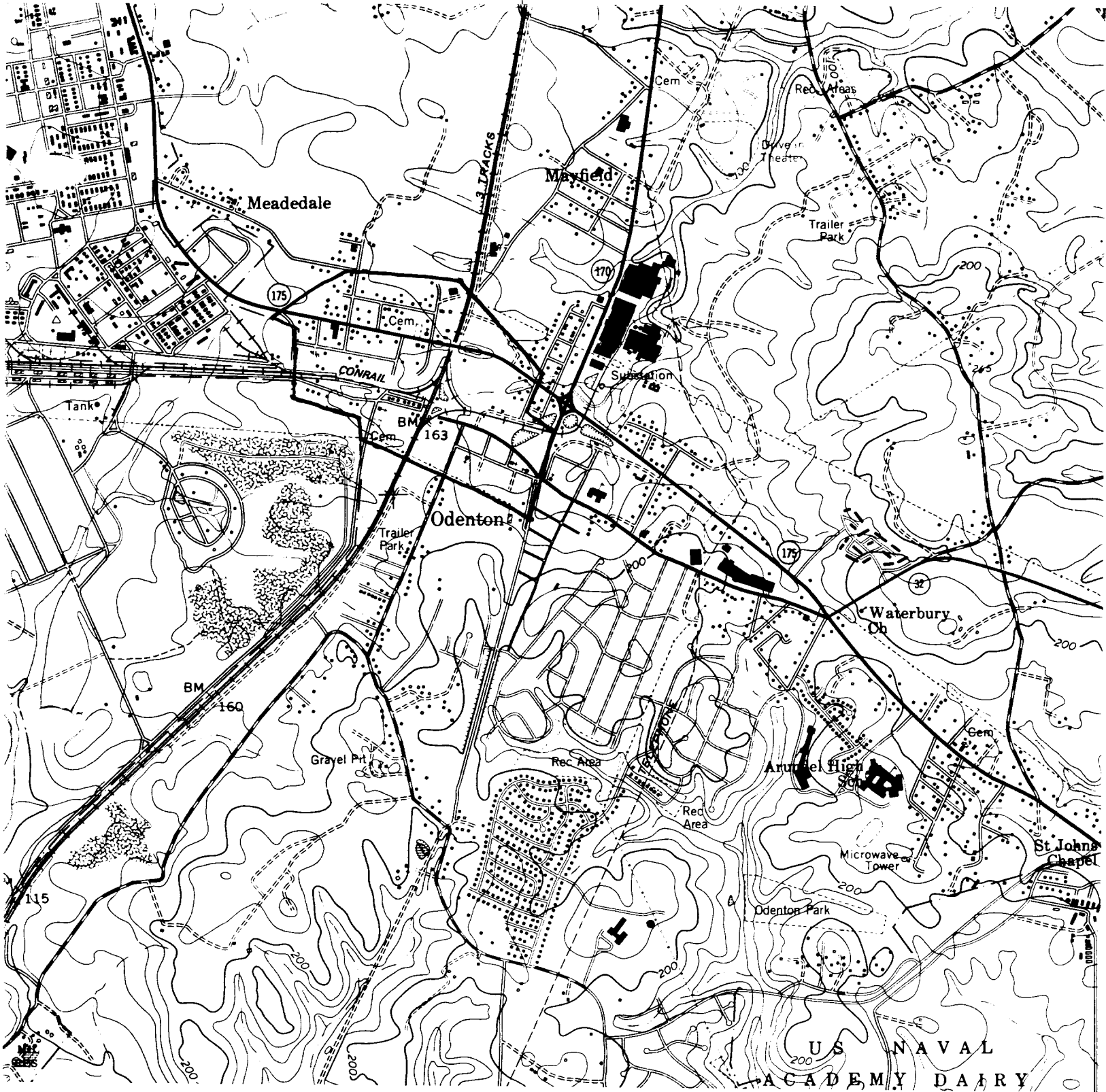   A - Excellent
    B - Good
    C - Mid-level
    D - Minimal
    Non-Contributing - E

Scale: 1" = 450'

ODENTON

Odenton, MD
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Scale 1:24,000
1957; Photorevised 1979

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Odenton Rd. (Rt. 677) and
vicinity

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne ARundel Co. Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
View of Watts House, across Penn
  RR tracks. looking S. W.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Penn. RR tracks, looking N. from
  Odenton Rd.

AA. 860
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., md.
Photo; D. Ware, 2/84
[1] Penn. RR tracks, looking N. from
Odenton Rd.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Penn RR facility, S. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne ARundel Co.,Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
1391 Odenton Rd. - N. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co. Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
1367 Becknel (Watts) Ave,
    N. eley.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
1385 Odenton Rd. - N. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware,2/84
Masonic Temple, 1367 Odenton Rd.
    rear, S. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Masonic Temple,1367 Odenton Rd.
   Entr. & N. Elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
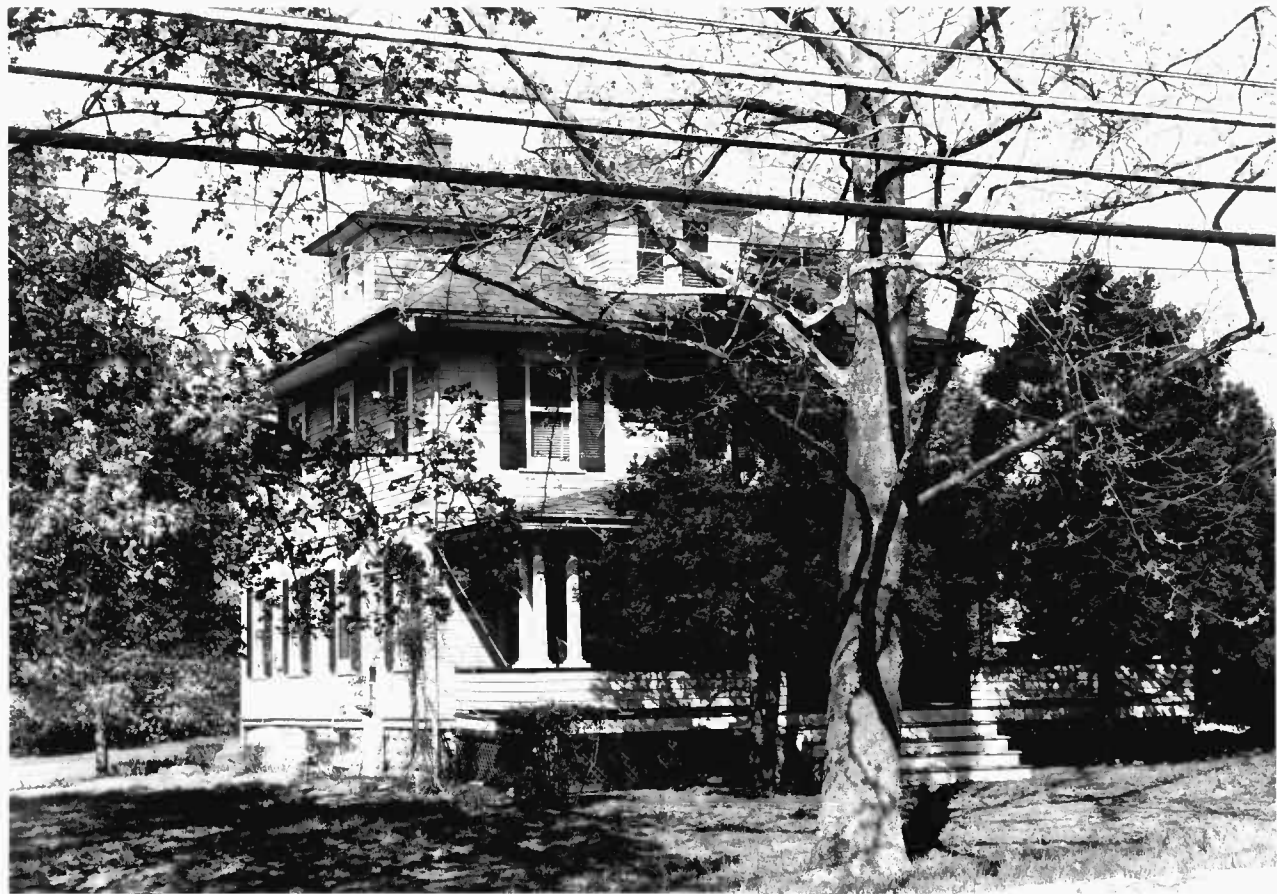Jr. Order of Masons Lodge -N.
elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co. MD
Photo: A Ware, 1984
Masonic Temple,
      facade, North elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
1359 & 1361 Becknel(Watts)Ave.
  looking S.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
looking S.E. on Odenton Rd., old
 Odenton Elem. Sch. in foregrd.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Bethel M.E. Church, 433 Waco St.
   side ↖ N. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Bethel M.E. Church, 433 Waco St.,
  facade, W. elev. & side - S.

TO

175

←

Epiphany Church
Episcopal

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Epiphany Epis. Church, 1419
  Odenton Rd., W. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne ARundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Epiphany Epis. Church, 1419
   Odenton Rd   S elev

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co. , Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Citizens State Bank, s. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Citizens State Bank, facade- E.
  elev. and side - N. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Citizens State Bank, 1402 Odenton
  Rd. ￢ entrance ￢ E. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
1st Fire House, 366 Morgan Rd.
  S. elev.

AA-869
Odenton Survey District
Anne Arundel Co., Md.
Photo: D. Ware, 2/84
Geo. M. Murray House, 1390
Odenton Rd. — South elev.